CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION ST D-3/5

REVIEWED BY J WOLF JR. DATE 5/26/83

RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE May 15, 1953 10:00 a.m.

TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒

RELEASE DENIED☐

PA/ FOIA EXEMPTIONS

(13)

(R)

SUBJECT: Jordan

PLACE : Office of the Minister of Finance, Amman

PARTICIPANTS: United States
Mr. Douglas MacArthur
Mr. Henry A. Byroade
Mr. Andrew G. Lynch

Jordan
H.E. Suleiman Sukkar, Minister of Finance.

It was explained to the Minister that the tight schedule to which Messrs. MacArthur and Byroade had to conform precluded spending as much time with him as they should have liked. Mr. Byroade said he hoped that the Minister might have some views which would be helpful when conveyed to the Secretary.

Throughout the discussion the Minister seemed to be laboring under the misapprehension that his conversation should be confined to financ[redacted] and economic questions and that either he or Messrs. MacArthur and Byroade were precluded from discussing political problems. He replied to Mr. Byroade by saying that Jordan's great need was an outlet to the Mediterranean. Aqaba was a poor alternative to Haifa, the port through which for years Jordan's exports had reached world markets. Some way must be found, he felt, to give Jordan access to the Mediterranean. It was suggested to the Minister that, short of peace with Israel, discussion of access to that sea was unrealistic.

The Minister then stated that he would not go into the political problems but felt, speaking frankly, that the United States would be ill advised to adopt two policies toward Jordan: one, a short-term policy which would include Point IV assistance in alleviation of the lot of the refugees by a Yarmuk Project and other forms of assistance which would raise the extremely low standard of living now existing in the country. It was not only the half million refugees which had to be helped but ways must be found to raise the standard of living of the whole population. He explained at some length the effect the existence of the refugees had on wages throughout the country.

The long-term policy, the Minister said, would be the political problem. Every effort should be made by the short-term approach to create an atmosphere, a sense of comparative well-being among the population, which would prepare them to approach the long-term problem in a more receptive mood than was the case at the moment. Mr. Byroade suggested that the economic and political problems went hand in hand and that it was impossible to separate the one from the other. The Minister replied that he was endeavoring to suggest a practical approach. He felt that the present atmosphere was not conducive to political solutions in the area but that economic help for Jordan was necessary. If we would endeavor to deal with the economic and that if Jordan's economic position were bettered there would be much more likelihood of achieving a solution to the political differences.

Mr. Byroade then told Mr. Sukkar that he thought it might be helpful if he explained the American philosophy of economic aid. He went on to point out, in the same manner as Mr. Stassen to the Prime Minister, that the United States believed that healthy economic conditions in other countries was in the best interest of the United States. He emphasized the differences between the Soviet approach which took away from other countries' economies to benefit Russia and the American approach which, still with self-interest in the back of its mind, built them up.

Mr. MacArthur told the Minister that before departing he wished to leave a thought with him. He explained that all over the world there was found the feeling that the United States held the cure for all ills. America was a vastly rich country, and Americans comparatively speaking, well-to-do individually. There was a limit, however, to our resources. We were not, to use a comic strip phrase, "supermen". Basically, each country would only improve its position by its own efforts. The Minister replied by saying that all Jordan needed was "ignition", something, in other words, to start the machine and after it was started it would carry on by itself.

The meeting closed with expressions of mutual regard.